(c) whether HMT is looking for foreign partners to manufacture premium brand of watches in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The company HMT watches Ltd. a subsidiary of HMT Ltd. has tied up with M/s. Godrej & Boyce, Prime Division as a Distributor on Pan India basis. M/s. Godrej & Boyce will retail HMT Watches through its Marketing Network.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. HMT Watches Ltd. is not looking for foreign partners to manufacture premium brands of watches in India as it has its own integrated manufacturing facilities.

Dilution of Government equity in Maruti

1562. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to give up its equity interest in Maruti Udyog Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) how Government propose to ensure that Maruti cars are available at reasonable rates to customers, the purpose for which MUL was established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Government is presently holding 10.28% of equity stake in Maruti Udyog Ltd. (MUL) after disinvesting 8% of equity to 8 public sector financial institutions and banks in the month of January, 2006 as a part of disinvestments process. It has been further decided to off-load 0.01 % of Government equity to the employees of MUL.

(c) MUL is a no longer a Government Company and the management control is with Suzuki Motor Corporation. The resonableness of prices of the cars manufactured by MUL are largely determined by market forces and competition amongst auto manufacturers.